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THE BEST MEANS

To Defeat the Expectation of the

ENEMIES

TO THE

GOVERNMENT:

A fanatick thing in behalf of yt Govern.

Hunbly ſubmitted to the Conſideration of the Preſent

PARLIAMENT.

26 March. 1690.

FOR the underſtanding what at this time becomes a true Repreſentative of this Proteſtant Nation, which, notwithſtanding all the Arts and Inſinuations of the Enemies to its Peace, did, upon the diſſolution of the *Contract* between the *late King* and his People, according to that Power which *God Almighty* has plac'd in all *Communities* for their preſervation, declare *King William* and *Queen Mary*, *King* and *Queen* of this Realm: We are to conſider what were the Hopes and Expectations of the *Papiſts* and other *Jacobites*, upon His Majeſty's diſſolving the laſt Parliament.

1. They thought it was diſſolved, becauſe the legality of it was queſtioned by ſome of *our Miniſters*, and others depending upon them, and hop'd, under the influence of *Great Men* of ſuch an opinion, to gain a *Parliament* that ſhould ſpin out the time for Action, in unneceſſary debates about forms.

2. They were in hopes, by a ſeeming falling in with the *Church* of *England*, the loudeſt of whoſe Members have vented notions inconſiſtent with our preſent ſettlement, and by encreaſing the Cry againſt all who have not eſpouſed a *ſeparate Church Intereſt*, without regard to the *publick weal*, and the *Proteſtant Cauſe* throughout Chriſtendom, to gain one of theſe three points, either of which would be of great ſervice to them; but all together, would certainly make way for another Change.

1. To get ſeveral choſen who are abſolutely for the *Late King*, and declare, that they are ſo as they are *true Sons* of the *Church of England*; but regard the Church no farther, than it ſerves for a Cloak to their deſigns.

2. To have many of no deſigns whatever, but well-meaning *Bigots* to what is called the *Church*, and who will think themſelves oblig'd to believe as *Church-men* tell them they ought, or, as perhaps ſome of thoſe Guides, if true to themſelves, muſt; and therefore labour to draw others in to ſtrengthen their *Party*.

3. To have many ſo ſtrict for the *Church Forms* eſtabliſhed, when Popiſh Councils prevail'd, as to be ready to let looſe former ſeverities againſt all who cannot come up to them; and thereby to diſable numbers of His *Majeſty's* good Subjects from acting in the common Cauſe againſt *Popery*.

4. Finding that the *Surrenderers of Charters* were ſtill in the government of Corporations, and that the Returns of Members to Parliament in many places would be made by

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by them, and that if they were truly made, they would be likely to be punished for their former violation of the *Constitution*, they did no doubt but the Artifice above mentioned, join'd with the Interest of Criminals to prevent their own punishment, would give them the majority of Sitting-members, who might secure their own Places, and vote others in, even where the Returns of Sitting-members were fair.

5. They thought that by the Plausible Pretence of the benefit of *Unity* and *Moderation*, they might dispose the Members of a New *Parliament* to a *General Act of Indemnity*, without making Examples upon any of those Heads which were agreed on by both *Parties* in the *last House of Commons*. By which they might not only weaken the Nation by endless Divisions and Competitions, while guilty Men would have the advantage of those Riches and Honours which they gain'd by their Crimes, to enable them to trample upon the Laws and *Englishman*: But they would gain an effectual advantage against this Government, whilst the open violation of the *Contract* on which it is founded, would receive a publick approbation by their acquitting the Instruments of Maleadministration; and by consequence, this Government might be thought an unjust usurpation upon one, whose Right would thereby seem to continue.

To damn such Expectations at the beginning, it seems requisite,

That the first thing which this Parliament proceed to, setting aside all other business whatever, be to prepare an Act for the *Royal Assent*, declaring the *Last Parliament* a True *Parliament*, and full *Representative* of the People of *England*, and that all its Acts ought to be held *valid*, and *lawful*.

Some *Formalizers* may oppose this; but all men who are true to *this Government*, will be hearty in maintaining its *Foundation*. To condemn the Acts of the *Last Parliament*; to go about to *confirm* them, as wanting *confirmation*; would be again to bring our *Settlement* in question, and to let Men of Form harangue it to as dangerous a loss of time, as they occasion'd before.

2. This being over, it may be less difficult to pass an Act to *Recognize King William* and *Queen Mary* to be Lawful and Rightful *King* and *Queen*, adding Lawful and Rightful to the *Oath of Allegiance*.

Few will dare directly to oppose this, but some may endeavour to divert it by propounding a Settlement of the Revenue for His *Majesty*'s Life, or a late Supply for the War, which can signifie nothing, if he leave *England*, before the like Provision made against receiving the *late King*, or declaring for him, and setting up some Regent till he come.

Here every Friend to this Government, ought to set his Foot, and not advance one Step, till this Point is gain'd; whoever propound a Settlement of the Revenue, or further Supplies till this past; or at least, without tacking it to the first gift of either kind, are for another *Abdication*, upon which there wou'd be an easy Translation of the *Revenue* and *Supplies* to *James* the Just, their supposed rightful *King*, while they allow this *King* to be only in Fact, and by Usurpation.

3. Disputed Elections ought to be settled with all possible Diligence and Expition; and severe *Enquiries* made into all Abuses in Elections and Returns.

4. For the effectual justifying his present *Majesty*'s Declaration, when he was but Prince of *ORANGE*; and his Title, now as King of *ENGLAND*; and for *Admonition* to future Ages, as well as satisfying the just desires of an oppress'd People; some Examples ought to be made among the many Criminals in the two last *Reigns*.

That the Impunity of Criminals hitherto, has encouraged great Abuses in relation to the Choice and Returns of Members, even for this *Parliament*, is too evident; yet it is not to be doubted, but those very means, whereby the Subverters of our Constitution, have sought to save themselves from Punishment, will draw it more heavily upon them.

And such Men would do well to consider, that some Crimes stand in need of a Pardon in *Parliament*, which will be very evident to them, who observe the common Form of Pardons out of Parliament] which as appear by the Records, always had this Clause, As much as lies in us, Provided, That he stand to right, if any body has any thing to say against him. If Men who wold maintain another Opinion, shall think fit to produce their Presidents, I doubt not to make it manifest, that they are either mistaken, or perverted, or else all things consider'd, cannot be look'd upon to have any weight with a Parliament.

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